



## Recommendation for Action

**File #:** 19-2503, **Agenda Item #:** 31.

8/8/2019

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### **Posting Language**

Approve an ordinance accepting \$341,014 in grant funds from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and amending the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Parks and Recreation Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20180911-001) to appropriate these grant funds to study the effects of green infrastructure installed at joint-use school parks located at elementary schools.

### **Lead Department**

Parks and Recreation Department

### **Fiscal Note**

Funding in the amount of \$341,014 is available from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. A City funding match is not required. A fiscal note is attached.

### **Prior Council Action:**

On January 26, 2017, Council approved Resolution No. 20170126-022 supporting the Austin Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights on Council Member Pool's motion, Council Member Alter's second on an 11-0 vote.

On January 26, 2017, Council approved Ordinance No. 20170126-023 accepting \$50,000 in grant funds from the National League of Cities for the Implementation of the Connecting Children to Nature initiative on Council Member Pool's motion, Council Member Alter's second on an 11-0 vote.

On March 22, 2018, Council approved Ordinance No. 20180322-020 authorizing acceptance of \$38,000 in grant funds from 3M Eco-Grant for Environmental and Conservation Education. Item was approved on consent on Council Member Casar's motion, Council Member Houston's second on a 10-0 vote. Council Member Pool was absent.

### **For More Information:**

Ricardo Soliz, Division Manager, 512-974-9452; Kim McKnight, Acting Assistant Director, 512-974-9478; Vera Labriola, Business Process Specialist (512)-974-6716.

### **Additional Backup Information:**

Cities Connecting Children to Nature (CCCN) is a national initiative that offers city government and community leader support and guidance to enhance connections between children and nature. With this support, Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) collaborated with multiple partners to establish the CCCN-Austin implementation plan in 2016. PARD continues to work with community partners, such as the Austin Independent School District, to create access to natural environments in areas of Austin that are park- and nature-deficient, thus advancing the goals of CCCN-Austin.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, through its Health and Climate Solutions grant program, is offering \$341,014 in funding to further support CCCN-Austin. PARD, in partnership with the Michael and Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living, will use the funding to investigate the impact of green infrastructure at joint-use school parks located at Barrington, Cook, and Odom elementary schools. Researchers will study the heat

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index, physical activity levels, and emotional well-being of economically disadvantaged Latino children in Austin, corresponding to their connection with nature. This two-year project will enable PARD to more fully understand the impact of green infrastructure on children, to design increasingly effective programming and infrastructure, and to inform the PARD Long Range Plan. This grant program requires no matching funds. Following the grant period, organizations that participate in the CCCN-Austin collaborative, including PARD, will continue to prioritize access-to-nature initiatives within their ongoing programming, and will seek opportunities to expand on those efforts. The General Fund will not be required to contribute additional funds beyond those currently budgeted for this grant. When the grant funds expire, PARD's continuing funding will be evaluated and may be denied.